

Georgia Forest Facts

GEORGIA'S FORESTLAND



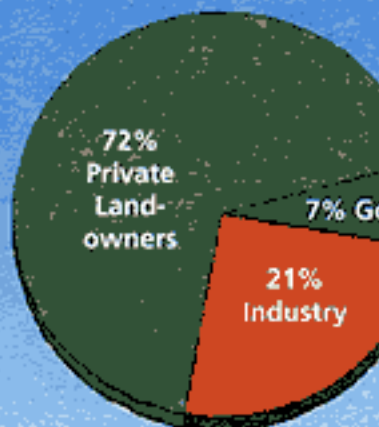
The total land area of Georgia is 37 million acres. 24.4 million acres is considered to be forestland... that's 2/3 of the state!

Of this 24.4 million acres, 23.8 million acres are available for commercial use ...that's more than any other state!

USFS Resource Bulletin, SRS-36
USFS GTR, RM-234

COMMERCIAL FORESTLAND OWNERSHIP

Of the 23.8 million acres of commercially available forestland, individual citizens (private non-industrial landowners) own the bulk of the land.



Government - 7% (1.75 million acres)
Forest Industry - 21% (4.89 million acres)
Private non-industrial landowners - 72% (17.15 million acres)

USFS Resource Bulletin, SRS-36

ECONOMY:

TIMBER - THE TOP CROP:

- Timber is the highest valued crop in Georgia followed by cotton, peanuts, and vegetables.
- Georgia remains one of the top pulp & paper states in the nation.

GA Crop Reporting Service, 1997

FORESTRY - THE LEADING INDUSTRY:

- Forestry creates 177,000 jobs statewide.
- Georgia's forest resource creates a 19.5 billion dollar economic impact in the state annually.

Dr. Al Montgomery, retired, GA State University



Timber
52%



Cotton
21%



Peanuts
15%



Vegetables
12%

GEORGIA'S TOP FOUR CROPS



FORESTRY IS A
\$19.5 BILLION / YEAR
INDUSTRY IN GEORGIA

SUPPORT FORESTRY

IT DEFINITELY SUPPORTS YOU!



REFORESTATION:

- In the last 20 years, Georgians have replanted nearly 6.9 million acres in trees... that's 943 acres a day, which is 613,000 trees per day.
- Five trees are planted for every one harvested to ensure that future forests will continue to support our economy and environment.
- An estimated 251,000 acres of forestland are naturally regenerated each year.

1997-98 GFC Reforestation Survey

FOREST TYPE:

- Commercial forestland in Georgia consists of: 39% Hardwoods, 15% oak-pine, 45% pine, and 1% non-stocked.
- The most prevalent hardwood forest types are oak, maple, yellow poplar, and sweetgum.
- Loblolly and slash are the primary pine forest types.

HARDWOODS 39%

OAK-PINE 15%

PINE 45%

USFS Resource Bulletin, SRS-36



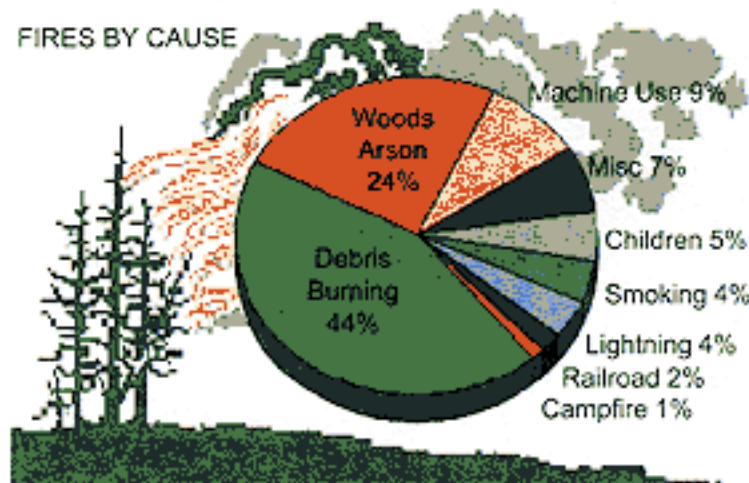
FOREST PROTECTION:

Georgia experiences about 8,000 forest fires each year that damage or destroy approximately 31,000 forest acres. Georgia firefighters have the best fire suppression record in the Southeast with the average size fire consuming less than 5 acres.

Careless burning of debris continues to be the leading cause of forest fires.

Based on USFS Annual Forest Fire Statistics

FIRES BY CAUSE



GFC FY89-98 Fire Summary

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY:

Over 63% of Georgia's population lives in urban areas.

U.S. Census, 1990

Healthy urban and community trees make our communities livable. Benefits of healthy trees include:



ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

- Enhance economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists
- Reduce cooling and heating costs
- Can add up to 15% to residential property value

SOCIAL BENEFITS:

- Improve mental and physical health and well-being of people
- Contribute to a sense of community pride and ownership
- Provide privacy and a sense of solitude and security

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

- Clean water, conserve water and reduce soil erosion
- Clean air, reduce air pollution
- Create wildlife and plant diversity
- Modify local climate

USDA Forest Service

FOREST PRODUCTS:

Trees can be used to make thousands of consumer items. On the average, each American will use the equivalent of a 100' tree, 18" in diameter each year. Products or by-products from trees include:

Baseball bats

Candles

Capsules / Tablets

Clothing

Combs

Cough syrup

Crackers

Crayons

Eyeglass frames

Football helmets

Fruits & Nuts

Gum

Ice cream

Lipstick

Make-up

Maple syrup

Milk cartons

Nail polish

Newspaper

Paint

Parmesan cheese

Pencils

Perfume

Photo film

Bandage strips

Shampoo

Sponges

Tires

Toilet tissue

Toothpaste



J. Frederick Allen
Director